Under the scheme, subsidy ranging between 50 to 90% is admissible on the transport costs incurred for movement of raw material and finished goods from the designated rail head/ports upto the location of the industrial units and vice-versa. The scheme has been extended from time to time and was last extended from 1.4.1995 to 31.3.2000 vide notification dated 29.9.1995. A provision has also been introduced for making payments by the Government of India directly to the units in exceptional cases.

Upto March 1996, Rs. 147.27 crores had been reimbursed to the North-Eastern States under the scheme (Assam—Rs. 113.09 cr., Tripura-cr., Meghalaya-Rs. 7.24 cr., Mizoram-6.44 cr., Manipur—Rs. 2.76 cr., Arunachal Pradesh—Rs. 4.92 cr. and Nagaland-Rs. 8.60 cr.)

Formulation of New Norms for Backward Districts

5267. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any new norms for identifying Backward Districts;

(b) whether any committee has been appointed in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Committee has submitted its report; and

(e) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e) Planning and Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Planning Commission have not formulated any norms for the identification of the backward districts per se. However, the Government had appointed a Study Group for identifying backward districts for the purpose of allowing a five year holiday followed by tax concessions for another five years for the new industrial undertakings commencing operation in such districts during 1.10.1994 to 31.3.1998 under Section 801A of the Income-tax Act, 1961. The Study Group had submitted its report in October, 1994 which was later reviewed by another Study Group in the Ministry of Finance. The Review Group had recently submitted its report, which is under consideration of the Government.

Pipeline between Haldia and Barauni

5268. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether pipeline is being planned between Haldia and Barauni to transport crude oil;

(b) if so, the reasons/objectives thereof;

(c) whether above mode of transportation of oil will be cheaper in comparison with the transportation of crude oil by inland waterways; and

(d) if so, the advantages, both—financial and otherwise to be accrued by resorting to installation of pipelines between Haldia and Barauni ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Government have approved the proposal of IOC to lay a crude oil pipeline from Haldia to Barauni at an estimated cost of Rs. 952.95 crores, for augmenting the crude availability to Barauni Refinery. The analysis of transportation of crude by pipeline vis-a-vis Inland Waterways and other connected issues had already been carried out and only after techno-economic consideration, the project was sanctioned.

[Translation]

Import of Machineries for Hydro Electric Power Projects

5269. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of proposals/memoranda received by the Union Government from the Government of Gujarat regarding import of machineries for hydro electric power projects during the last three years and till date;

(b) the progress made so far in this regard;

(c) the reasons for the delay; and

(d) the time by which these proposals are likely to be finalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHAIR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Poverty in Tribal Areas

5270. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :